

From: LWillo1124@aol.com [mailto:LWillo1124@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2006 12:57 PM
To: fgc@fgc.ca.gov
Cc: Melissa Miller-Henson
Subject: For Fish and Game Commission Packet for 8/2/06 meeting

Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge
S.B. 1006, June, 1963 and S.B. 1812, July, 1984.

Tidepool Coalition
P.O. Box 433, Pacific Grove, California 93950

Save Our Refuge
65 Companion Way, Pacific Grove, Ca. 93950

June 24, 2006

To: Fish and Game Commission
From: Tidepool Coalition and Save Our Refuge Organization

In accordance with provisions of A.B. 993, Marine Life Protection Act, specifically under Section 2862 and 2853, paragraph 5 of subdivision c, on behalf of the people of Pacific Grove and the thousands of visitors who enjoy the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge which borders our city's coastline, we are submitting petitions on August 2, 2006 respectfully asking the Fish and Game Commission to designate the entire coastline of our city owned refuge, the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge as the Pacific Grove State Marine Reserve. This refuge holds great intrinsic and aesthetic value and great biological significance and must remain intact as an ecosystem continuum.

In 1931 The State of California did cede, grant and relinquish, forever unto the City of Pacific Grove, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of said state, all the right, title, interest and estate of State of California, of, in, or to, all of the real estate, of said State of California including the entire water front and submerged lands out to a depth of 60 feet.

In the year 2000, the voters of Pacific Grove circulated a successful ballot initiative, Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge Marine Conservation and Protection Initiative. It became local law, and prohibited the taking of marine invertebrates and other marine life within the boundaries of the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge.

On April 19, 2006 the City Council of Pacific Grove by unanimous vote submitted to the Fish and Game Commission a letter in support of State Marine Reserve Status for the entire coastline out to a depth of 60 feet. The people of Pacific Grove have long worked for protection of their ocean resources, and this is simply a reflection of this long time concern.

The Pacific Grove Coastal Parks Plan adopted in 1998 and mandated by the Coastal Commission seeks to maximize protection of the rich and diverse water and marine resources along the Pacific Grove shoreline. The Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge holds extraordinary value and warrants special protection, including preservation and maintenance of its natural condition. Within these areas, no risk of change is considered acceptable unless it is part of natural process. *

The people of Pacific Grove believe that if this issue were brought to court, they would have a very strong case given the fact the City owns its refuge, and was excluded from the MLPA Stakeholders negotiating table. It has become a matter of fragmenting the city's marine heritage and its legacy for future generation. We do not believe this proposed action meets the intent nor the spirit of A.B. 993, and it is not in the best interests of the City of Pacific Grove or the general public of California.

Jim Willoughby, Chairman
Tidepool Coalition

Frances Williams
Save Our Refuge

1000+ signatures on Petitions from the Ladies in their 80's to Save our Refuge
6200+ signatures on Petitions for State Marine Reserve Designation held by Tidepool Coalition

*Pacific Grove Coastal Parks Plan adopted August, 1998.